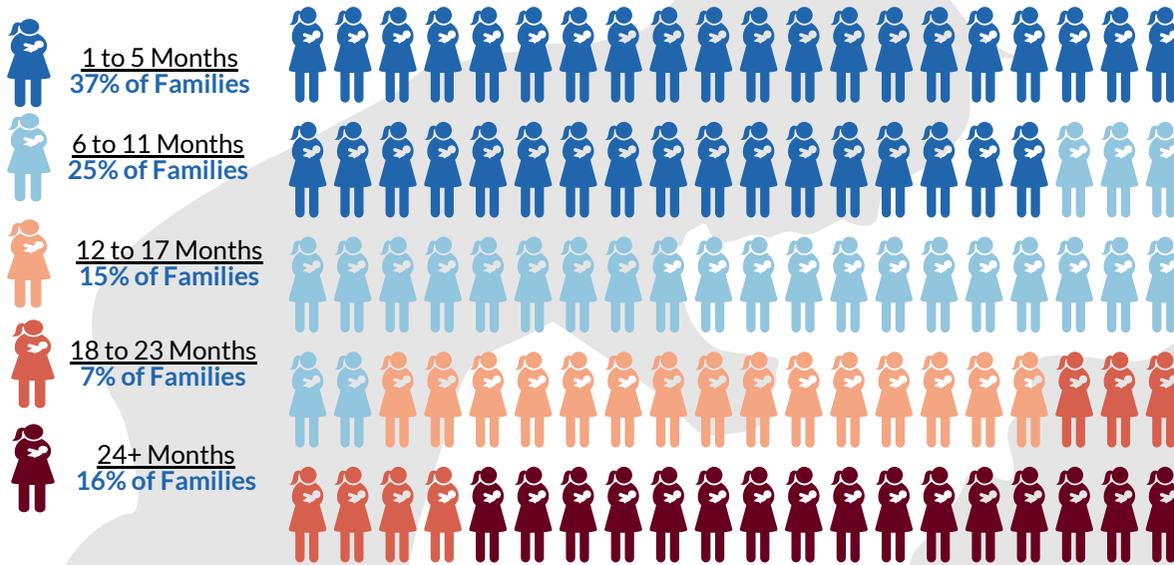


How Long Do Families Receive Child Care Subsidies?

Child care subsidies are provided to low-income families to pay for part or all of their child care arrangements. Measuring the length of receipt helps policymakers understand how these programs assist families and how they can be improved. Program data reveal that many participating families initially received subsidies for less than a year, but often returned to the subsidy programs after a period of non-participation. In these charts, initial spells of participation are defined as the number of continuous months that families received subsidies before exiting for at least two months.

[Click here for more information on child care subsidy duration and caseload dynamics.](#)

Number of Consecutive Months Families Initially Received Child Care Subsidies During their First Spell (FY 2012)



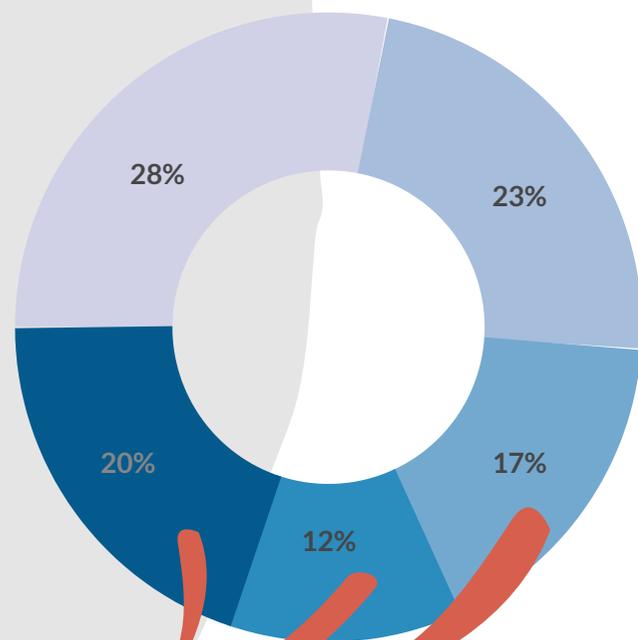
38% of families received subsidies for more than one year during their first spell of participation.

47% of families that began receiving child care subsidies cycled on and off of the subsidy system more than one time over a three-year period.
(Data from FY 2012)



Total Cumulative Months Families Received Subsidies Over a Two Year Period (FY 2012)

- 1 to 5 Months
- 6 to 11 Months
- 12 to 17 Months
- 18 to 23 Months
- 24+ Months



Cumulatively 49% of families received child care subsidies for more than one year.